

Attorney's Docket No.: 14723-008001

REMARKS

Applicant elects Embodiment 1 directed to FIGS. 5(a) and 5(b) as identified by the Patent Office. The election is made without traverse.

Independent Claims 1, 21, 42, 61, and 64 have been amended to further include the hierarchical feature in the optical drop within a fiber ring as shown in FIGS. 5(a) and 5(b). No new matter is added. Hence, Claims 1, 21, 42, 61, and 64 as amended and their corresponding dependent claims, are readable on the elected Embodiment 1. The Patent Office already indicates that Claim 41 is associated with Embodiment 1. Hence, upon entry of the above claim amendments, Claims 1-66 are all readable on the elected Embodiment 1 and should be considered on their merits by the Patent Office.

In addition, Claims 67-85 have been newly added to include the hierarchical feature in the signal drop within a fiber ring described in FIGS. 5(a) and 5(b). No new matter is added. These new claims are clearly readable on the elected Embodiment 1.

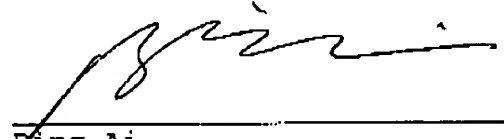
Therefore, Claims 1-85 are now pending upon entry of the claim amendments and all of the claims should be considered on their merits based on the present election of the Embodiment 1.

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Claim 41 has been amended to correct a typographical error. The specification has been amended to correct a numeral for an optical switch in FIG. 8(b) and to clarify the language based on illustrated features in FIG. 8(b). An amendment to FIG. 8(b) is proposed. A new set of drawings, which is not submitted at this time, is being prepared to reflect this amendment and to correct various other informalities in the drawings on file. No new matter is added.

Please apply a fee of \$55.00 for the extension of one month in response to the office action and a fee of \$214.00 for newly added claims along with any other applicable charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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